

V. REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

At the outset, applicant's counsel wishes to express his appreciation for the thorough examination of this application by Examiner Ark.

In the last Official Action, mailed September 30, 2004, the Examiner objected to claims 4-7 merely as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, by this Amendment, the following actions have been taken. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 4, and the latter claim has been canceled without prejudice. Allowed claim 5 has been amended to appear in complete and independent format.

Each of dependent claims 2-3 and 6-13 has been amended to depend from either independent allowed claim 1 or independent allowed claim 5. The Examiner is authorized to charge any fees required by this Amendment, specifically any fees for the multiple dependent claims, to counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-1950.

As a result of these actions: parent claims 1 and 5, and claims 2-3, and 6-13 dependent therefrom, all stand allowed.

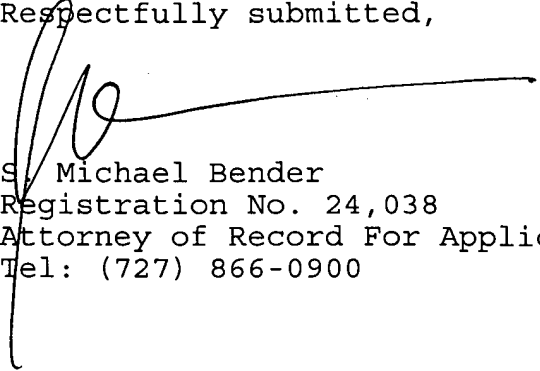
It is further noted with due appreciation that the drawings as filed with and forming part of the present application have not been objected to by the Official Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 and have been accepted by the Examiner.

All grounds of objection and rejection having been overcome by this Amendment, the application now is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance containing allowed claims 1-3, and 5-13, and such favorable action earnestly is solicited.

* * * * *

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues still present in the application and to expedite the prosecution of the application, should the Examiner believe such a telephone conference would be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

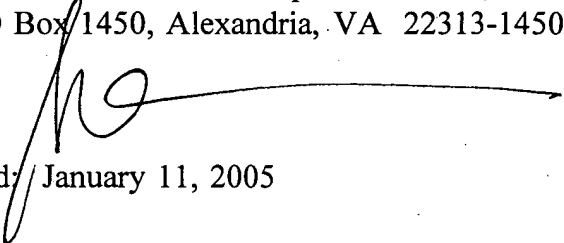


S. Michael Bender
Registration No. 24,038
Attorney of Record For Applicant
Tel: (727) 866-0900

VI. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment Under 37 CFR § 1.111 and Petition for a One-Month Extension w/check for \$ 55. to cover the extension fee** are being deposited on **January 11, 2005** with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature:



Date Signed: January 11, 2005